

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING USUN 0592 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAIRO DAMASCUS
TEL AVIV FEB 17; REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF

SUBJECT: SOVIET REPLY TO SECRETARY GENERAL'S LETTER ON MIDDLE
EAST PEACE CONFERENCE

REF: USUN 300 (NOTAL)

1. SECRETARIAT HAS GIVEN US COPY OF USSR REPLY TO WALDHEIM'S
LETTER OF JANUARY 27 CONCERNING THE NEED TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD
A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. USYG GUYER TOLD AMBASSADOR
BENNETT (PER BENNETT/TOUSSAINT TELCON) THAT SECRETARIAT
INTENDED TO CIRCULATE SOVIET REPLY TOMORROW, FEBRUARY 18, UNLESS
US PLANNED TO REPLY BY FEBRUARY 18. IN THAT CASE, UN WOULD
CIRCULATE BOTH LETTERS TOGETHER THE FOLLOWING DAY.

2. TEXT FOLLOWS OF FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO'S LETTER TO SECRETARY-
GENERAL, DATED FEBRUARY 12:

QUOTE

DISTINGUISHED MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL,
YOUR MESSAGE TO THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE
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ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN CONNECTION WITH THE RESULTS OF THE

DISCUSSION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED. YOUR INITIATIVE IS DULY APPRECIATED IN MOSCOW AND WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN AT THE PERSISTING TENSION IN THE AREA OF MIDDLE EAST DANGEROUS FOR CAUSE OF PEACE. IT IS CLEARLY EVIDENT THAT THE CONTINUING OCCUPATION BY ISRAEL OF THE ARAB TERRITORIES, ITS DISREGARD OF THE LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE REMAIN FRAUGHT WITH THREAT OF NEW MILITARY EXPLOSION, THE CONSEQUENCES OF WHICH MAY SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE WHOLE INTERNATIONAL

SITUATION. SUCH A COURSE WOULD CORRESPOND ONLY THE INTERESTS OF THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO USE THE LACK OF SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS AND ABSENCE OF LASTING PEACE IN THE AREA FOR THEIR NARROW PURPOSES.

THE FACT THAT ISRAEL AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT IT CONTINUE STRIVING TO KEEP THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF THE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT DEADLOCKED CANNOT BUT CAUSE CONCERN. THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT CONSIDERATION OF THIS QUESTION IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL TESTIFY PRECISELY TO THIS EFFECT. THIS ORGAN COULD NOT COME TO A DECISION BECAUSE OF THE POSITION OF ONE OF THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL THOUGHT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS DEFINITELY SPOKE OUT IN FAVOUR OF THE CONCRETE MEASURES FOR BRINGING ABOUT A COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.

IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS WELL AS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL UN MEMBERS, WITH A VERY SMALL EXCEPTION, CLEARLY EXPRESSED THEIR OPINION THAT GENUINE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS FROM ALL THE ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL IN 1967, WITHOUT SAFEGUARDING INALIENABLE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE AND INSURING THE RIGHT OF ALL STATES OF THE REGION TO INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITUATION AROUND THE PROBLEM OF THE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT HAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THERE IS NO OTHER RELIABLE WAY TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENTS ON ALL THE QUESTIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT BUT THE RESUMPTION OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORK OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE - THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM SPECIALLY CREATED FOR THESE PURPOSES. SUCH A CONFERENCE SHOULD NO DOUBT BE WELL PREPARED AND ALL THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED INCLUDING THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION AS WELL AS THE USSR AND THE USA AS THE CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE CONFERENCE SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN ITS WORK.

THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION

OF THE PALESTINIANS WOULD BE NOT A FORUM OF BUSINESS-LIKE
NEGOTIATIONS BUT A CAMOUFLAGE AIMED AT CREATING
SEMBLANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. I BELIEVE YOU AGREE THAT SUCH A TURN
OF EVENTS WOULD DO ONLY HARM SINCE THE LACK OF PROGRESS WOULD
LEAD TO A FURTHER AGGRAVATION OF THE SITUATION IN THE
MIDDLE EAST AND AROUND IT.

THE SOVIET UNION CONSIDERS THAT THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAMPER THE CAUSE

OF CONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, ASSUME UPON THEMSELVES THE
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH A POLICY.

THE UNITED NATIONS WITH ITS HIGH INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE CAN
AND SHOULD SAY ITS WEIGHTY WORD ON THE ISSUES OF THE ES-
TABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. YOU MAY
REST ASSURED, MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL, THAT THE SOVIET UNION,
ON ITS PART, WILL AS BEFORE DO ALL IN ITS POWER FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF

THIS GOAL. SUCH IS THE POSITION OF PRINCIPLE OF THE USSR
AND IT WILL FIRMLY ADHERE TO IT.

A. GROMYKO

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE USSR

12 FEBRUARY 1976

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